

3-8-1950

Notes: Lenten Address: Art Thou Not Also (John 18:25), 1950

O.P. Kretzmann
Valparaiso University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholar.valpo.edu/kretzmann_collection



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kretzmann, O.P., "Notes: Lenten Address: Art Thou Not Also (John 18:25), 1950" (1950). *O.P. Kretzmann Collection*. 52.
https://scholar.valpo.edu/kretzmann_collection/52

This Collection Record is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives & Special Collections at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in O.P. Kretzmann Collection by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

DATE 3/8/50 OCCASION Valpo. Lent.

John 18, 25

THEME Art thou not also?

1. Imagin - all agree, ^{our} answer to certain questions depends upon place & occasion when they are asked - esp. true of questions concerning our inner life - personal questions - might answer them privately - but not in a great company of people - or - leaving this Church - "Are you a Christian?" - Answer: "Of course" but - same question in a nightclub - a low down - hole - it would be a strange question - and the temptation not to answer it - or to say No would be very great - social context -
2. See you ^{already} understand what I am trying to say - so often when we are young - "I can go anywhere - hang out in the worst place - travel in bad company - but don't worry about me - I can hold my own - I know what I'm doing - & don't judge me by the place I go or the company I keep" - It's all right - no matter where I am -
3. Well - that's one of our great, sad delusions - it just isn't true - and you have one of the world's most tragic examples of it in the words I just read to you. ^{It} seems familiar - people standing around a fire in a courtyard - a cold spring night - inside the palace a man was going to his death. Let him go for a moment - there is a man at the fire who intervenes - standing there he is suddenly confronted with the sharpest, greatest question he - or anyone else - was ever asked - ^{don't it} challenge of eternity is it - a biting decision, final question - "Art thou not also?"

Pages
114/163

DATE 3/8/50 OCCASION Valpo - heat

THEME _____

4. See very clearly ^{tonight} now - after 2000 years - that Peter was in the wrong place for that question - in fact, the worst possible place - among disciples - trying to be one of them - get by without standing up for His Lord - and that was already a denial - if he had never opened his mouth it would still have been a bad night for Peter - his very presence there was a silent denial of his Lord -

^{Strongly they} And Peter of all people! Perhaps the most courageous, the boldest of all the disciples - and one of the most favored - as ~~he~~ ^{he} stood a good ^{far} there by the fire ^{where} was the memory of the years of blessed companionship - the remembrance of the glory of the Transfiguration - or above all - the memory of the garden only as how or two earlier when he had been chosen to watch the savior of His Lord under the olive tree - ~~and~~ ^{now} ~~only~~ - 100 minutes later - all of it forgotten - when the decisive question came - Peter's answer was quick:

"I am not one of his disciples - even heard of him -"

Sam - ^{none} ~~none~~ of ~~it~~ ^{is} in a ^{mood} ~~man~~ to sit back self-righteously & criticize Peter - far more valuable - in fact, ^{significantly} ~~very~~ important, to ^{as we should always ask} ~~ask~~ also today in other cases: "How & why did it happen? Motives? To show anything I can & should learn from the story?"

DATE 3/8/50 OCCASION Valpo. Lent.

THEME _____

cut a few corners - everybody else is doing it. Then a voice - a whisper from far away - "Not thou one of this mass display?" - a student in a classroom - tempted to cheat - "Not" - a young woman tempted to lower her standards of morality - she will hear the small voice of conscience asking the same question that Peter heard - "Not thou?" and everything, everything depends on the answer - is it in Peter's answer the result will be exactly the same as it was that lonely night.

The sudden pain, the ^{burning} burning tears, the deep dark regret - and always the night - dreams - and now forget it - Peter had set his mind & heart against a law of the Universe - you cannot break your relationship with the living God and be at peace with yourself - you have to pay for it

10. But if the answer "Not" - by the grace & grace of God, is "Yes" then something else happens - so far - have not said much about the ^{the price is high} ~~the price is high~~ ^{which all this was going on} ~~the price is high~~ who were inside the palace - the men whom Peter denied - He was in there going to the death so that we might be his disciples, his children forever - that we might have the grace & power to stand up - to say Yes - to be strong when the hearts of men are stricken with fear - His coming brought the life of God into our souls - a new dignity & power - the new fire of eternal things - faith, hope, love, which move the little fire by which men try to warm themselves as brief & momentary as the little fire in the courtyard of the High Priest 2900 years ago - only ashes in the morning - cold & forgotten - (over)

And you see Peter, learned ^{the lesson of the look} that
and from that lesson he learned
also the miracle and mystery of
being this man's disciple - how it
began so low down - etc.

And Peter did that - out of the
house of Maundy Thursday came
a sunny, glowing morning on the
Shores of Lake Galilee - and a
question from a lonely, lovely voice -
a question now spoken in the right
context: "Simon - I trust Thou He"
And Peter said "Lord thou knowest"
and went on from there to wait the
screaming eagles of Rome.

Strangely - we do not know how
the story ends in this life - we know
how it ends in eternity - but on this
side of the veil - legends - one: crucified
in Rome - upside down - ridiculous way
to die - and yet in the moment of
recapitulation - he did not remember -
the night & the tears - the gray, hopeless morning -
not even all the great things he had done.
but the morning by the lake - very content & very
happy - he had been one of this man's disciples.